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A Guide to Candidate Filing And More

Published by:
Mason County Elections Department
March 2013

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Offices Subject to Election

Please see separate insert for list of offices open for Election in 2013.

Candidate Filing Fees

Filing Fees

If the office has a fixed annual salary of more than \$1,000, the filing fee is 1% of the annual salary of the office. The filing fee is \$10 if the office has a fixed annual salary of \$1,000 or less. There is no filing fee if the office has no fixed annual salary. The fee is based on the salary in effect at the time of filing. Filing fees are not refundable.

An indigent candidate may submit a filing fee petition in lieu of the required filing fee. One signature is required for each dollar of the filing fee. A combination of money and signatures will not be accepted.

The following local offices require a filing fee in 2013.

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Filing Fee</u>
Partisan Office		
Mason County	Clerk	\$681.30
Nonpartisan Offices		
City of Shelton	Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvement	\$156.00
Port of Shelton	Position No. 3	\$60.00

Candidate Filing Definitions

The Declaration of Candidacy form is used to file for an elective office.

An election jurisdiction is any political subdivision or jurisdiction of the state from which officials are elected.

The filing officer for candidates of Federal, Statewide, and joint county Legislative or joint county Judicial districts (a district where voters from more than one county vote upon the office) is the Secretary of State. The filing officer for single county Legislative or Judicial districts and all other offices is the County Auditor. The Superintendent of Public Instruction designates the filing officer for joint county school districts.

For any other joint county nonpartisan offices, the filing officer is the County Auditor of the county in which the majority of the voters of the district reside.

An indigent candidate is a candidate who lacks sufficient assets or income at the time of candidate filing to pay the filing fee.

A joint county district is an election jurisdiction comprised of voters from more than one county.

A filing fee petition is a petition signed by individuals supporting the candidacy of an indigent candidate. The petition is submitted in lieu of the filing fee for the office sought. The petition must contain at least one signature for each dollar of the filing fee required.

A short term is the brief period of time starting upon the completion of the certification of an election and ending with the start of the full term. It is applicable only when the office was filled by an appointee caused by a vacancy occurring after the last election at which the office could have been voted upon for an unexpired term. Short term elections always run in conjunction with a full term election and do not apply to the office of School Board Director.

An unexpired term occurs when there is a vacancy and a person is appointed to fill the vacated position. The position is required to appear on the ballot at the next regular election to fill the remainder of the term (the unexpired term).

A vacancy occurs when an officeholder meets one of the criteria provided in RCW 42.12.010, including death, resignation, and removal from office.

A void in candidacy occurs when an election has been scheduled and no valid declaration of candidacy has been filed, or all persons filing declarations of candidacy have died or been disqualified.

2013 Candidate Filing Information

Where to File

Online: Mason County Elections>Candidate Info> File for Office

Office of the Secretary of State:

- Federal offices
- Statewide offices
- Legislative offices encompassing multiple counties
- Judicial offices encompassing multiple counties

County Auditor's Office:

- Legislative offices within a single county
- Court of Appeals positions within a single county
- Superior court positions within a single county
- All other offices (The Superintendent of Public Instruction designates the filing officer for joint county school districts. For any other joint county nonpartisan office, the filing officer is the County Auditor of the county in which the majority of the voters of the district reside.)

If you are unsure where to file your Declaration of Candidacy, please contact the Election Department at (360) 427-9670 ext. 470 or (360) 275-4255 ext. 470. Candidate filing forms are available online at:

Mason County Elections>Candidate Info>Candidate Resources

When to File

In-person Declarations of Candidacy will be accepted Monday, May 13 through Friday, May 17, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mason County Auditor's Office Elections Department located at 411 N Fifth St, Shelton.

A candidate may file by mail no more than 10 business days prior to the first day for in-person candidate filing. Any declarations received before Monday, April 29 or after Friday, May 17 will be returned. Postmarks are not applicable.

Candidate Withdrawal

Filing fees are not refundable. A candidate may submit a signed request to withdraw candidacy no later than Monday, May 20 at 4:30 p.m. and his or her name will be removed from the ballot.

Filing for More than One Office

You may only file for a single office in any primary or general election, except for Precinct Committee Officer or a temporary position.

Ballot Order

The lot draw to determine ballot order will be held in the Auditor's Office at 4:45 p.m., May 17, 2013. If a Primary is not required for a nonpartisan office, the names shall appear on the General Election ballot in lot draw order.

Online Voters' Statements

Eligible Offices

To provide consistency and eliminate duplication of work, the statement submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State will be displayed on the Mason County Auditor's Office Election Department's Online Voters' Guide for any candidate required to file his or her Declaration of Candidacy with the Office of the Secretary of State and for any candidate required to file with the County Auditor, but qualified to participate in the printed Voters' Pamphlet produced by the Office of the Secretary of State. A second statement is not required to be submitted to the Mason County Elections Department and will not be accepted for those positions including President, Vice-President, United States Senator, United States Representative, all Statewide Offices, State Representative, State Senator, Superior Court Judge, Court of Appeals Judge, and Supreme Court Justice.

All other offices required to submit a Declaration of Candidacy to the Mason County Auditor's Office, except Precinct Committee Officers and Declared Write-in Candidates, may submit a statement and photo to the Elections Department to be published in the Online Voters' Guide.

A candidate may also submit his or her statement and photo online. After filing for office, the candidate will receive an email with a detailed explanation regarding the submission of his or her statement online.

Requirements

Statements submitted for publication in the Online Voters' Guide shall be limited to two hundred (200) words or less. If the statement exceeds the 200-word limit, the candidate will be notified by telephone. The candidate will have until the close of the next business day (4:30 p.m.) to submit a new statement within the 200-word limit. If the candidate does not submit a new statement meeting the 200-word limit, all words in excess of 200 will be omitted. If such a deletion creates an incomplete sentence, that incomplete sentence will also be omitted.

The name, address and telephone number of the candidate submitting the statement must appear at the top of each page of the statement and will not be counted against the word limit. All statements shall be without tables, lists, graphs, or other material requiring multiple indentations. Words that are underlined, in italics, or all in upper case letters will be changed to normal type.

Biography

In addition to a two hundred word or less statement, all candidates are entitled to a one hundred (100) word biography. Candidates who file online will be prompted to respond with information on the following topics: Elected Experience, Other Professional Experience, Education, and Community Service. The sum total of the information in these categories must not exceed 100 words.

Candidate statements must be submitted online, on CD or emailed. If you file online, you will be emailed a link to submit your statement. If you don't have the link you can contact the office at Finao@co.mason.wa.us or (360) 427-9670 ext. 469 and request it. Statements submitted via email or CD must be in a standard word processing file. Send email submissions to Fina Ormond at the email address above.

Photos

Digital photos must be submitted online, on CD or emailed to Finao@co.mason.wa.us as a .tif or .jpg file. Print photos must be no smaller than 4x5 inches and no larger than 8x10 inches.

No photo may reveal clothing or insignia of any organization that advocates or teaches racial or religious intolerance or suggests the wearer has held a public office. The photo should be limited to the head and shoulders and should not be more than five years old.

Editing

The Election Department staff will not make any changes or corrections to a candidate statement and does not assume any responsibility for errors that result from inaccuracies in the original statement submitted by the candidate.

Content

The County Auditor is required to reject any statement containing obscene, vulgar, profane, scandalous, libelous or defamatory matter, or language which in any way cites, counsels, promotes or advocates hatred, abuse, violence and/or hostility toward, or which tends to cause ridicule or shame upon any person or group of persons by reason of sex, race, color, religion or manner of worship or any language or matter the circulation of which is prohibited by Federal law.

Candidates who have any portion of their statement rejected will be notified in writing and by telephone. The candidate will have until 4:30 p.m., three days following the notification by telephone to appeal the rejection. Appeals will be made to the County Auditor.

The County Auditor shall render a decision within two business days of the appeal and such decision to accept or reject the statement or portion of the statement shall be final. A second decision to reject is final due to time limitations and only the portion of the statement, if any, which has not been rejected, will be used.

Deadline

Statements and photos must be submitted to the County Auditor no later than 4:30 p.m. May 24, 2013, for the August 6, 2013 Primary. For the November 5, 2013 General Election, statements must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. August 23, 2013.

Publication

Submitted statements will be published in the Online Voters' Guide at:
Mason County Elections>Current Election>Online Voters' Guide

Candidate statements shall appear in the order they will appear on the ballot. The following statement shall be printed at the top of the page where candidate statements appear; **"These statements are submitted by the candidates and are not edited or verified for accuracy by the Elections Department."** The phrase, **"No Statement Submitted"** shall be displayed for each candidate that does not submit a statement. The statements for the Primary will be published online no later than June 10th. The statements for the General Election will be published online no later than September 3rd, 2013.

General Election

Candidates may submit a new statement prior to the General Election, but may not submit a new photo. The statement submitted for the Primary Voters' Guide would be republished for candidates that do not submit a new statement prior to the General Election.

Write-in Candidates

Qualifications

A write-in candidate may file a Declaration of Write-In Candidacy no later than the day before the Primary or General Election. In order to file a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy, you must be qualified to assume office if elected. If you filed a Declaration of Candidacy for the same office at the preceding Primary as either a regular or write-in candidate, you are not eligible to be a write-in candidate for the General Election.

Advantages

Filing as a write-in candidate allows voters to write your name, or a recognizable variation of your name, under the office heading and have the vote count for you. Minor variations of your name will be accepted as long as the voter's intent is discernable. If you file as a declared write-in for the Primary and you qualify to move on to the General, for a partisan office, the party preference you list on your declaration form is printed on the ballot. If you do not file as a write-in candidate and you qualify to move on to the General, "States No Party Preference" is printed on the ballot.

Restrictions

As a write-in candidate, your name will not be printed on the ballot and will not appear in the online voters' guide or any printed voters' pamphlet. Should you qualify for the General Election ballot by gathering the greatest number, or second greatest number, of votes cast and at least 1% of the total votes cast for the race in the Primary, your name will be printed on the General Election ballot and will appear in the online voters' guide and the state voters' pamphlet, if applicable.

Voter Registration

Deadlines

To be eligible to vote in an upcoming election, the deadline for registering to vote by mail or online, transferring your voter registration from one county to another, or submitting an address change within a county is 29 days prior to an election. Postmarks are considered.

You may register to vote online at www.myvote.wa.gov.

If you are not currently registered in Washington, you may register in-person at the Mason County Auditor's Office up to eight days prior to an election.

Election Dates	Mail/Online/Transfers	In-Person/New to WA
April 23, 2013 Special Election	March 25, 2013	April 15, 2013
August 6, 2013 Primary Election	July 8, 2013	July 29, 2013
November 5, 2013 General Election	October 7, 2013	October 28, 2013
February 11, 2014 Special Election	January 13, 2014	February 3, 2014

Requirements

To register to vote in the state of Washington, you must be:

- ☐ A citizen of the United States;
- ☐ A legal resident of Washington State; and
- ☐ At least 18 years old on Election Day.

You may not register to vote if you:

- ☐ Are currently in prison or under the supervision of the Department of Corrections for a felony conviction; or
- ☐ Have been judicially declared mentally incompetent and ineligible to vote.

2013-2014 Election Calendar

Resolution Deadlines

A Resolution calling for a Special Election on a designated election date other than a Primary or General Election must be presented to the County Auditor at least 46 days prior to the election date. A resolution calling for a Special Election to be conducted in conjunction with a Primary must be presented no later than the Friday before Candidate Filing Week and for a General Election must be presented to the County Auditor no later than the day of the preceding Primary.

Election Dates	Resolution Deadlines
April 23, 2013 Special Election	March 8, 2013
August 6, 2013 Primary Election	May 10, 2013
November 5, 2013 General Election	August 6, 2013
February 11, 2014 Special Election	December 27, 2013

Certification of Election Results

The County Canvassing Board certifies the election results fifteen days after a Primary or Special Election and twenty-one days after a General Election. The Secretary of State certifies the results of Primary and General Elections no later than the third Tuesday following a Primary and thirty days after a General Election.

Election Dates	County to Certify	State to Certify
April 23, 2013 Special Elections	May 7, 2013	N/A
August 6, 2013 Primary Election	August 20, 2013	August 23, 2013
November 5, 2013 General Election	November 26, 2013	December 5, 2013
February 11, 2014 Special Election	February 25, 2014	N/A

Vote by Mail

Increase in Vote by Mail

In response to voter request, Mason County has conducted all of its elections by mail since 2005. In addition to voter approval of the proposed vote by mail ballot proposition, Mason County voters had also demonstrated their preference for voting by mail through its widespread use.

Deadline for Mailing Ballots

Ballots are mailed to all active registered voters at least 18 days prior to each election. Ballots are mailed to all military and overseas voters at least 45 days prior to each Federal election and at least 30 days prior to each special election.

Election Dates	Deadline for Mailing Ballots
April 23, 2013 Special Elections	April 5, 2013
August 6, 2013 Primary Election	July 19, 2013
November 5, 2013 General Election	October 18, 2013
February 11, 2014 Special Election	January 24, 2014

Mason County Accessible Ballot Drop Box Locations

24-Hour Outdoor Drop Boxes

Hood Canal Visitor Center
150 N Lake Cushman Rd
Hoodsport WA 98548

Mason County Building 1
411 N Fifth St
Shelton WA 98584

North Mason County
23910 NE State Route 3
Belfair WA 98528

Port of Allyn
18560 E State Route 3
Allyn WA 98524

Drive-Thru Access

Timberland Regional Library
710 W Alder St
Shelton WA 98584

During Business Hours and on Election Day 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Mason County Auditor's Office
411 N Fifth St
Shelton WA 98584
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Availability

Drop Boxes are available at least 18 days prior to an Election and remain open until 8:00 p.m. Election Day.

The Drop Boxes are locked promptly at 8:00 p.m. Election Day and sealed to prevent additional ballots from being deposited.

Not all Drop Boxes are available for each election. To verify the boxes available for a particular election, please call the Elections Department at (360) 427-9670 ext. 470 or (360) 275-4255 ext. 470.



Accessible Voting Equipment

Availability

We have a special voting unit that allows disabled individuals to vote with complete secrecy and privacy. This unit is especially helpful to those with limited ability to see or mark their ballot.

Accessible voting equipment is available at the Auditor's Office during business hours beginning 18 days prior to each election until 8:00 p.m. election night. The equipment is called the eSlate Electronic Voting System (eSlate).

How it Works

When a voter arrives at the Auditor's Office to vote using the eSlate, election staff will issue an access code to the voter. The correct ballot for the voter will appear when he or she enters the access code into the eSlate. The voter can then use the Select Wheel to move between choices, the Enter button to select choices, the Previous and Next buttons to go back and forward one page, and the Cast Ballot button to cast the voter's final ballot choices.

Accessibility Features

The eSlate is available to any voter wishing to use it, but the equipment has special features to allow voters with disabilities to vote independently. **Headphones with built in volume control** are available for voters who may have trouble reading the ballot including voters who are blind or visually impaired. **Tactile input switches** are available to assist voters who have mobility impairments. In addition, a **"sip-n-puff" device** may be connected to the voting equipment.

For more information regarding the eSlate Electronic Voting System visit our website at www.co.mason.wa.us/auditor , or for a demonstration, please call the Elections Department at (360) 427-9670 ext. 470 or (360) 275-4255 ext. 470.

Mason County Voting Precincts

Precinct Number	Precinct Name	Commissioner District
113	Pickering	1
114	Harstine	1
115	Grapeview	1
116	Mason Lake	1
117	Fair Harbor	1
118	Allyn	1
119	Victor	1
120	Belfair	1
121	Tiger Lake	1
122	Dewatto	1
123	Tahuya	1
124	Sand Hill	1
125	Trail's End	1
126	Twanoh	1
205	Bordeaux	2
207	Kamilche Point	2
227	Union	2
228	Skokomish	2
229	Hood Canal	2
230	Cushman	2
231	Eells	2
232	Matlock	2
233	Dayton	2
234	Kamilche	2
235	Isabella	2
236	Airport	2
237	John's Prairie	2
238	Limerick	2
301	Olympic View	3
302	Downtown	3
303	Angleside	3
304	Hillcrest	3
306	Fawn Lake	3
308	Arcadia	3
309	Mill Creek	3
310	Agate	3
311	Oakland Bay	3
312	Timberlake	3
339	Callanan	3

